

not make them dependent upon their Government? And the other big issue is education. It's always not only an important part of campaigns, but it's an important part of being—once you're in office.

When I was the Governor of Texas, I used to always say, "An educated child is one less likely to commit a crime." As a Governor, and now as President, I have spent a lot of time working with members of both political parties to develop an education plan that starts making sure children learn before they just get shuffled through the system.

One of the saddest facts about my country is that there are a significant number of fourth grade students who cannot read at grade level. Imagine a child who can't read in the fourth grade is a child that's not going to be able to read in the eighth grade. And if a child can't read in the eighth grade, it's likely that child's not going to be able to read sufficiently when they get out of high school and, therefore, won't be able to go to college. It's a shame in America that that's the case.

So as part of an education bill I managed to get through Congress last year, we've got a significant reading initiative, where we'll work with the States and the local jurisdictions to focus on an education program that emphasizes reading. This year I hope to work with my wife and others on a early childhood development program, so the youngsters get the building blocks to learn how to read.

I'm actually working my way to your question, I promise you—[*laughter*]—because education is the best anticrime program. It's important to enforce law. It's important to hold people accountable for their actions. It is important to have consistent policy that says, "If you harm somebody, there will be a punishment for that harm." But in the best interests for my country, the long-term solution is to make sure the education system works for everybody. And when that happens, there will be a more hopeful future for people, and there will be less poverty, less hopelessness, and less crime.

Listen, thank you for letting me come. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the main hall. In his remarks, he referred to Vice President Hu Jintao of China, who introduced the President; President Jiang Zemin of China; and

U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr. A participant in the question-and-answer session referred to the TMD system, theater missile defense system. Participants asked their questions in Chinese and then repeated them in English.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 16

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Anchorage, AK.

In the afternoon, the President met with members of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

February 17

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Tokyo, Japan. Following their arrival in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush met with employees and their families at the U.S. Embassy.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker, Jr., and his wife, Nancy Kassebaum Baker, at the Ambassador's residence.

February 18

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush visited the Meiji Jingu Shrine, where they attended an archery demonstration.

In the afternoon, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan at Ikura House, the Prime Minister's residence.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a reception at Ikura House. Later, they attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Koizumi at the Gonpachi restaurant.

February 19

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Japanese businessmen at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan at the Imperial Palace.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Seoul, South Korea, where they participated in an arrival ceremony. They then went to the U.S. Embassy, where they greeted employees and their families.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony at the Blue House, the residence of President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Observation Post Ouellette in the Demilitarized Zone, where he toured the facilities and had lunch with U.S. soldiers. He then traveled to Dorasan, and later returned to Seoul.

February 21

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Beijing, China, where they participated in an arrival ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr., and his wife, Sarah, at the St. Regis Hotel. Later, he greeted U.S. Embassy staff and their families at the hotel.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a dinner hosted by President Jiang Zemin of China at the Great Hall of the People.

The White House announced that Zalmay Khalilzad, the President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Special Assistant to the President for Southwest Asia, the Near East, and North Africa, will travel to Afghanistan on February 20–25.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to the White House on March 12.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister

Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to Washington on March 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Humanities: Naomi Shihab Nye; Wilfred M. McClay; Michael Pack; James R. Stoner, Jr.; Andrew Ladis; Amy Apfel Kass; Celeste Colgan; Thomas Mallon; and Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles M. Younger, Gilbert S. Baca, and Marsha Johnson Evans to be members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

February 22

In the morning, the President had a working breakfast with Premier Zhu Rongji of China at the Diaoyutai State Guest House.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a luncheon hosted by President Jiang at the Zhongnanhai Compound. Following the luncheon, they toured the Great Wall of China.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to Washington on March 2–6.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.
